

Serial No. 09/836,462

Amendment dated January 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated September 12, 2003

Remarks

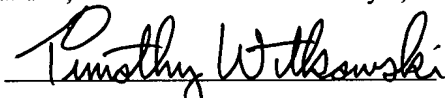
Claims 1 to 3, 5, and 7 to 17 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 16, and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 1, 7, and 11 to 13 have been amended. No new matter is presented by the amendments and entry is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 1, 7, 8, and 11 to 15, as amended, are now pending.

Since all of the other rejections apply to claims that have been cancelled or amended herein, such rejections are moot. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Applicants submit that all the pending claims are allowable and respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney below.

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 5, 2004.

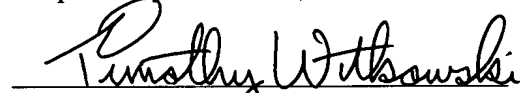


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1-5-2004

Dated

Respectfully submitted,



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